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TARRENBERGSTHAL-AUERBACH-BINGEN Uranium Mining Area

Beginning of April 1949

1. Geological analysis of the Uranium deposits in the Saxon Erzgebirge.

a. All uranium deposits in the Saxon Erzgebirge consisted of impregnations enclosed like pockets in the rock.

b. The density of the impregnations was varying within the mining area. The pitchblende deposits were bedded similarly though they partly occurred in such density in the AUE-SCHNABERG-OBERSCHNEIDA-JOHANN GEORGENSTADT district that the geological structure almost resembled coal and iron ore deposits. The densest occurrences existed in the AUE District where impregnation nests partly compacted into clusters.

c. Mining was most intensive in this district, as comparatively large amounts could be produced, though the rock compositions caused some difficulties in the dressing procedure.

d. The concentration of the uranium deposits in the AUE District progressively decreased in density, structural disposition, ore content and mineralogical rock composition at increasing distances from the center. It is nevertheless probable that uranium ore deposits exist along the entire western side of the Erzgebirge.

e. These facts do not permit any estimate of the course of ore containing veins as mining conditions frequently changed surprisingly. For instance, the MILLBROOK mine No. 1 was the most productive mine up to December 1948, but it suddenly became so unprofitable that it had to be shut down on 15 December 1948.

2. Geological analysis of the MASHAN-OLBINITZ Area:

a. All uranium deposits so far discovered in this area were bedded on a block of granite-mass-primary rock streaked with white, uranium-containing quartz veins.

3. These quartz veins generally run in a NE-SW direction in the TARKENBURGSTAL District.

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c. The rich quartz veins occurring in this district were of considerable thickness and reached a maximum diameter of 10 to 20 mm. These veins were the proper ore-containing elements of the uranium-mica composition which also occurred as impregnations, but in the rather compact form of "pockets".

d. The new discoveries made in the BERGEN district also consisted of huge ore-containing quartz veins streaking the block of granite-gneiss primary rock. In this are the quartz veins, running distinctly from North to South, deflected in direction compared to those of the FALKENBERG District. An estimate of the probable deposits in this district was also impossible.

3. Division of the former object No. 32 in the BERGEN area:

a. Following the uranium discoveries in the BERGEN area (mentioned in par 2) object No. 32, which until then comprised the mines as well as the dressing plant, was divided in the beginning of March 1949. Only the dressing plant in the FALKENBERG Mine No. 1 was designated with object number No. 32. This dressing plant continued to prepare only gneiss-primary stones.

b. Mines No. 2 to 5, together with the newly opened mine No. 6 in BERGEN, were combined into object No. 25. The new object number was the former number of the AMMERLING object which had been closed in the meantime.

4. Production figures of the dressing plant in the object No. 32:

a. A shift quota was ascertained in the shipment of ores from the ore dump at the JAGGENDORF (B 51/K 31) RR station to the dressing plant of mine No. 1, now object No. 32. In the beginning of March 1949 eight trackloads totaling almost 150 tons were shipped from the RR station to the dressing plant within eight hours (5-ton "ZIS" trucks and 3-ton "KADU" trucks were used). This would mean a daily output of object No. 32 totaling 450 tons, an amount almost exactly corresponding to the facts.

5. New uranium discoveries in the PLAUEN Area:

a. Teachers from BERGEN who were interested in mineralogy found uranium-mica in a sand pit west of BERGEN in the beginning of January 1949. These deposits were already known but in 1939-1945 FREIBERG experts rejected any mining projects because of unproductivity. The new assays proved the probable occurrence of rich uranium-content ores at very slight depths in the entire PLAUEN/Vogtland-CELLENFZ-AMMERBACH area.

b. Though no indications on the uranium content of the discovered uranium-mica are available up to now, experts tend to believe that the favorable working conditions - so far deposits were found at a depth ranging from 3 to 50 ft. below surface - may lead to intensive mining activity.

6. Mining projects of new findings:

a. Only eight workmen were employed for the first exploratory excavations in January 1949. The labor force increased on 25 March 1949 to 400 men and additional 30 workmen were hired daily.

b. In the beginning of February another rich deposit was discovered in a second sand pit, 1,000 feet south of the above mentioned pit. Intense prospecting activity continued from then on.

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c. General MALTSEV, the general manager of the WISNURH Corporation, inspected on 5 February 1949 the new findings in BERGEN. Work was intensified after that inspection and the labor force was considerably increased. On 12 March 1949 a number of Soviet experts, mainly Soviet geologists, arrived from SIBGAD-SCHOSHAT near SIBSHITZ, the administrative center of the WISNURH Corporation.

7. Object No. 25 (present state):

a. Mines No. 2 through 5 of the former object No. 32, together with the new mine No. 6, were combined into object No. 25 (see par 3 b).

b. Nothing had been changed in mines No. 2 through 5 of the former object No. 32.

c. All of the almost a shrooding prospecting sites in the PHAJEN-OSISMITZ-ASERBACH area of new findings were assigned to object No. 25.

d. The management of object No. 25 was in the ASERBACH Labor Office. Experts and skilled workmen of the former object No. 25 in ASERBACH were transferred to ASERBACH.

e. New mine No. 6:

(1) Layout of mine No. 6 (date of information 25 March 1949)

Two horizontal levels

Six sumps

Eleven prospecting ditches

(2) Seven other locations with probable uranium occurrences were found through use of search instruments.

(3) Mining activity in mine No. 6 was still exploratory. Prospecting ditches and test shafts (i.e. small shaft-like holes) originated in continuous succession.

(4) A total of 200 boxes with approximately six to eight tons of test materials had been shipped up to 25 March 1949. No indications are available on the destination of these shipments.

(5) Two Ju-52 engines converted into compressors were in operation in the vicinity of the horizontal levels. A new building for housing the compressors, transformers and additional machines was already completed. The supply of equipment came from TUMEN-SHAROV, still the center of the new object No. 25, up to about the middle of February.

(6) It was noted that shipments of materials and machines from TUMEN-SHAROV to BERGEN were complicated by transportation difficulties, resulting in a considerable decline of the daily output of dressed materials.

(7) The BERGEN pit overseer was SHITZAI (Soviet) who was only 20 years old. He said that he was an engineer, but he did not have any expert knowledge.

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